

## **18/09/20 – Update regarding confirmed isolated case of Covid-19 within our Sixth Form**

I am writing to inform you that that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our Sixth Form at Ivybridge Community College and want to reassure you that we are, and will continue to follow appropriate guidance.

On Thursday, 17 September at approximately 8.00pm we were directed by Public Health England to self- isolate a group of students from the College, including a member of staff within that 'bubble' as a preventative measure to stop the virus spreading. Public Health England have made us aware that the potential date for possible transmission at the College was Friday, 11 September. The individual associated with the confirmed case has not been on College premises since this date and all students affected have received letters as directed by Public Health England informing them of the appropriate self-isolation requirements and advice.

We contacted all parents/carers within this group by phone as soon as Public Health England made us aware and we have shared all advice and guidance provided to us on our website should you wish to view this

<https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=1025>

Please can I take this opportunity to thank all our parents who took phone calls late last night on this matter and their support on minimising the impact across the rest of the College.

As already arranged, from Monday, 21 September, all Year 13 will be taking part in timetabled 'live' lessons as per the working strategy/model and new routine put in place for this half term. As such, there is no need for any changes to be made to our teaching and learning provision.

I wish to reassure all students, parents and carers that health and safety is of upmost importance and wish to remind everyone of the following guidance issued by Public Health England:

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, **you should inform the school and organise for your child to be tested** via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119. Your household should isolate until you receive the test results giving the all clear.

### **Symptoms of COVID 19**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

### **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

### **Flu vaccination**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you and your family to have the flu vaccination if you are eligible for this, especially if you are in a risk group. You can find out about risk groups and whether you are eligible for a flu vaccine at the [NHS Flu vaccine overview](#).

### **Further Information**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Finally, thank you for your continued support in this matter at such unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Hutchinson  
Principal